



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
730 Massachusetts Ave., Arlington, MA 02476
Phone: 781-316-3000

webmaster@town.arlington.ma.us

School Committee Minutes 02/28/2013

Approved by Arlington School Committee February 28, 2013

Arlington School Committee
Regular School Committee Meeting
Thursday, January 24, 2013
6:30 p.m.

Arlington High School
School Committee Room – Sixth Floor
869 Massachusetts Avenue
Arlington, MA 02476

Present: Dr. Kirsi Allison-Ampe, Chair, Mr. Judson Pierce, Vice Chair, Ms. Leba Heigham, Secretary, Mr. Jeff Thielman, Ms. Cindy Starks, Mr. William Hayner and Mr. Paul Schlichtman.

Dr. Kathleen Bodie, Superintendent, Dr. Laura Chesson, Assistant Superintendent, Ms. Diane Johnson, Chief Financial Officer, Ms. Linda Hanson, AEA President and Ms. Karen Fitzgerald, Administrative Assistant.

Absent: Ms. Kathleen Lockyer, Interim Special Education Director, Mr. Robert Spiegel, Human Resource Officer, AAA representative, and the Student Representative

Ms. Hanson arrived at 7:07 p.m.

Dr. Bodie arrived at 7:20 p.m.

Ms. Heigham exited the meeting at 9:37 p.m. and returned 9:40 p.m.

Ms. Starks exited the meeting at 9:38 p.m. and returned 9:40 p.m.

Opening Remarks

Dr. Allison-Ampe informed everyone Dr. Bodie was at Massachusetts Curriculum meeting and would be arriving late, and Ms. Hanson would be arriving late. Dr. Allison-Ampe had a moment of silence for Dan Scharfman, Belmont School Committee member who recently passed away. Dr. Allison-Ampe spoke on the Dallin Artwork on display in the School Committee room for the month of January and quoted Mark Twain on the weather.

Public Participation

None

Discussion of School Committee and Administration priorities for FY 14 Budget

Ms. Starks said she had met with the Budget Subcommittee, Dr. Bodie and Dr. Chesson and the list below is the priorities and the needs of the district for FY 2014. Ms. recommends these priorities to the full committee tonight for approval.

Priority Item name and description

- 1) *Maintain level service*
- 2) *Thompson opening costs*
- 3) *Teacher professional development*
- 4) *Expenses to support new teacher evaluation system and move to common core curriculum*
- 5) *Math intervention and help at the elementary schools*
- 6) *Competitive sub salaries at all levels*

- 7) Math intervention and help at the middle school
- 8) Update curriculum materials
- 9) Equitable administrative support and administrative help in all schools
- 10) Staff at elementary & OMS
- 11) Support for central registration of students
- S1 Increase teaching staff at AHS
- S1 Increase technology support people in district
- S1 Improve elementary & middle school libraries – pay, staff, materials
- S1 ESL improvements needed to meet review needs
- S2 Get all technology up to date
- S2 Digital media studio
- S3 Preschool needs
- S3 Increase support for students above grade level
- S4 Increase TA pay
- S4 Increase salaries for lunch monitors at elementary schools
- S4 Increase support for at-risk students at AHS
- S4 Elementary language immersion program

Ms. Starks moved that the School Committee approves the Budget Subcommittee FY 2014 Budget priorities as listed above, seconded by Mr. Hayner.

Voted: 7-0

The committee asked Ms. Johnson when she provides the FY 2014 Budget to them on February 14, 2013 that she show any reductions of any program and show any increases as well. They also recommend that she provide a cost analysis for increasing substitute teachers salaries by \$10, 20, and \$30.

Dr. Allison-Ampe welcomed Linda Hanson to our meeting.

Mr. Schlichtman moved to table all item up until the Subcommittee & Liaison Reports, seconded by Mr. Pierce.

Voted: 7-0

Subcommittee & Liaison Reports

Policies & Procedures – Mr. Pierce said the subcommittee met and spoke on the Wellness Policy and will continue to meet to discuss other policies.

Budget, Ms. Starks said the Budget Public Hearing will be held on February 28, 2013.

Community Relations, Ms. Heigham said no applications were received for the appointment of Human Rights Commission, and would like to make the following recommendation for appointment to the Cultural Commission appointment.

Ms. Heigham moved to appoint Mr. David Ardito to the Arlington Cultural Commission, seconded by Mr. Thielman.

Voted: 7-0

Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment & Accountability, Mr. Thielman said they will meet on Monday, February 4, 2013 at 5:30 to discuss the Arlington High School Program of Studies changes.

Facilities, Mr. Hayner met with Dr. Bodie and viewed the preschool facilities and the high school last month.

Legal Services Review, Dr. Allison-Ampe said the subcommittee met today and will continue to meet to discuss and review legal issues.

Chair, Dr. Allison-Ampe presented the Governance Update of the District Goal Presentations Schedule 2012-2013 to the full committee in order to make sure goals are being met. Once the schedule is updated Dr. Ampe will have the schedule posted to the website.

Mr. Pierce moved to remove all items tabled, seconded by Mr. Thielman.

Voted: 7-0

Report on Facilities

Dr. Bodie provided the full School Committee with the Facilitates Overview power point presentation dated January 21,

2013 and said she has included the answers from Mr. Hayner's questions in the report. Ms. Johnson provided enrollment projection data and also pointed out the data shows that there is no need to build out at the Ottoson Middle School, but will continue to review the data over the next few years on projections. Dr. Bodie informed the committee she is considering and Statement of Interest to the MSBA for Arlington High School. Dr. Bodie wanted this to be a community decision as well and said it would be an expensive and certainly need project but as the Onsite Insight report shows, as well as the Capital Funding spent on the high school over the years, the high school should be discussed at the long range planning meeting.

Warrant for Special Education Reserve

Ms. Johnson said the following warrant article for Special Education Reserve account was need to be a correction to carry the reserve account across fiscal years.

Mr. Thielman moved the following Warrant ARTICLE __VOTE, APPROPRIATION/CREATION OF SPECIAL EDUCATION STABILIZATION FUND

To see whether the Town will vote to create a stabilization fund in accordance with Section 5B of Chapter 40 of the General Laws for the purpose of holding previously appropriated but unspent special-education funds for use to offset future special-education costs, to transfer previously appropriated but unspent special-education funds into said account; or take any action related thereto.

(Inserted at the request of the Arlington School Committee)

Seconded by Ms. Starks.

Voted: 7-0

Snow Removal

Dr. Allison-Ampe presented the following motion as a standard for snow removal around the schools.

Dr. Allison-Ampe Move that the School Committee adopts the following as a standard for snow removal around schools:

Within a reasonable amount of time after snow has fallen, and/or before 7 am on the next school day, the school's entrances, stairs, crosswalks and sidewalks directly adjacent to a school are adequately shoveled. Any remaining ice is treated with salt & sand, seconded by Mr. Hayner.

The committee discussed even having the snow removal as a standard.

Mr. Schlichtman made the following amendment to the motion to remove, "and/or before 7 am on the next school day", seconded by Mr. Hayner.

Voted: 4-3, Mr. Ms. Starks, Mr. Thielman and Ms. Heigham voted No

Motion passes

Ms. Starks disagrees with the motion and encourage DPW and the School personnel to work together on providing snow removal around the schools. Dr. Bodie said the Town Manager, Mark Miano and Ms. Johnson will meet to discuss purchasing snow blowers and new ice melts for the schools.

Original Motion as amended:

Dr. Allison-Ampe Move that the School Committee adopts the following as a standard for snow removal around schools:

Within a reasonable amount of time after snow has fallen, the school's entrances, stairs, crosswalks and sidewalks directly adjacent to a school are adequately shoveled. Any remaining ice is treated with salt & sand, seconded by Mr. Hayner.

Voted: 4-3, Ms. Starks, Mr. Thielman, and Ms. Heigham voted No

Motion passes as amend

Update on Thompson Rebuild

Dr. Bodie displayed the Thompson School Rebuild pictures of the main entrance, floor and wall tile colors as well as window and colorful gym floor. The committee discussed the technology for the Thompson Elementary school and Ms. Chesson has spoken with consultants on this and said how fast technology has already changed within the school systems over the past years.

Superintendent Report

Dr. Bodie reported on heat issues at the Dallin and the high school. Dr. Bodie provided the committee with the job

description for the Elementary Mathematics Coach.

**Mr. Thielman moved the approval of Elementary Math Coach job description, seconded by Ms. Heigham.
Voted: 6-1, Ms. Starks voted No**

The committee discussed if the School Committee needed to approve job descriptions or not, but the committee then confirmed that we have a School Committee policy in place. Then the following motion was made.

**Mr. Thielman moved that the Policy and Procedures Subcommittee review policy GCA Professional Staff Positions, seconded by Mr. Schlichtman.
Voted: 7-0**

Dr. Bodie informed the committee the Arlington High School Literacy Magazine Image won an award and that she received a nice letter from a retired teacher thanking Mark McAneny and the PTO at Bishop school for hosting a book drive and providing books to classrooms in that were destroyed by Hurricane Sandy.

Dr. Allison-Ampe pointed out she had received a thank you letter back from Senator John Kerry on the School Committee's view on gun control.

Consent Agenda

Mr. Pierce moved to approve the Consent Agenda as follows: *Approval of Warrant # 13102 Dated, January 10, 2013, Total Warrant Amount \$473,981.48 and *Minutes for Approval: December 20, 2012 and *Approval of Costa Rica Trip postponed from 2013 to 2014 and *Approval of Model Congress Trip, UPENN, February 7-10th, 2013, seconded by Mr. Schlichtman.
Voted: 7-0

Secretary's Report

Ms. Heigham reported on all correspondence received: 1/24/

Copy of letter regarding "gun control," from John F. Kerry, United States Senator, dated January 10, 2013

Nutrition and Wellness Policy, File JLCE, revised and approved January 10, 2013

Press Release "Samsung Mobile Announces Mobile Application Boot Camp Winners, Awards \$35,000 in Scholarships at International CES," Las Vegas, NV, January 11, 2013

Copy of Article "Student earns \$20K for mobile app," by Monica Jimenez, Arlington Advocate, January 24, 2013

Executive Session

Dr. Allison-Ampe moved to enter Executive Session at 9:39 p.m. to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with union and/or nonunion personnel or contract negotiations with union and/or nonunion in which if held in an open meeting may have a detrimental effect, and to conduct strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation, in which if held in an open meeting may have a detrimental effect, Collective bargaining may also be conducted and to update on Superintendent Contract Negotiations, Kathleen Bodie, Ed. D Superintendent and to exit only for the purpose of adjournment, seconded by Mr. Pierce.

Roll Call: Mr. Schlichtman Yes, Mr. Hayner Yes, Ms. Starks Yes, Mr. Thielman Yes, Ms. Heigham Yes, Mr. Pierce Yes, and Dr. Allison-Ampe Yes.

Vote: Unanimous

Adjourn

Mr. Schlichtman moved to adjourn at 9:53 p.m. seconded by Mr. Hayner.

Voted: 7-0

Respectfully submitted by
Karen M. Fitzgerald
Administrative Assistant
Arlington School Committee